Uniform Entertainment Tax

†3338. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a meeting of the Ministers of Information and Broadcasting of the Centre and the States is going to be held in Delhi on 17-18 April, 2005, in which apart from other matters discussion would be held on levying uniform entertainment tax; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Entertainment Tax is a State subject and the rates vary from State to State.

25th State Information Ministers' Conference (SIMCON), which was held in New Delhi on 15-16 April 2005, *inter alia,* discussed the need for rationalization of entertainment tax rates in States. While the rationalization of entertainment tax has been carried out in several States, there was consensus on the need to further bring down the ceiling on entertainment tax levels to 25-30%. The progressive reduction in entertainment tax will provide a major fillip to the entertainment industry and help the industry to realize its full potential.

AIR Stations in Orissa

3339. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that All India Radio (AIR) stations in Orissa are technically ready for commissioning for the last three years and awaiting clearance from Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that non-commissioning of the AIR stations has caused blockage of capital assets of large value; and

(c) whether the commissioning has been held up due non sanction of the required staff to run them on a day-to-day basis?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) AIR Soro in Orissa is technically ready since

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.